



A Lesson on The Astronaut's Diary by Jamie Curda

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: Astronaut, text to world

Lesson Description: Students will read the story about astronauts while learning new vocabulary words and drawing past personal experiences to make a connection to the text.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1: Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.3: Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.7: Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.8: Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.4a: Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

The Astronaut's Diary

by

Content: We were exhausted from all the work. We slept in shifts. One of us had to be awake all the time. There was so much work to do.

Finally, we got to our destination. We had reached the space station. There, we would do more work, but we would have less pressure. We had so much to do every day on our ship. Now there would be more people to help us. We would be on a collaborative team. We would be able to share the work.

When we moved into the space station, I felt great. There was so much more space. We would have real beds to sleep in. We would have better food. They had a garden on the space station. They grew vegetables.

The six astronauts on the space station were happy to see us. They said, We have been waiting for you. We were glad to see them, too. We had been worried. We heard that one of them had been sick.

We asked how she was feeling. She said she was better now. It had been a cold. We were relieved. We could stop worrying now.

That first night on the space station was great. We had good food. We had a good dinner. Then we were going to sleep. But one of the astronauts said, We need to give you a job. Each person has to take turns staying awake. Here is the schedule. So I had a shift again.

I saw I was first. I would have to stay awake tonight. I was disappointed. I felt fatigued. I had been awake and working for 20 hours. But I knew it was my duty. So I sighed and said, See you in the morning.

I became an astronaut so that I could travel in space. Now I'm here. It is hard work. It's even more challenging than I expected.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

Q: 1 WordPhrase: sighed **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author says "I had been awake and working for 20 hours. But I knew it was my duty. So I sighed and said, 'See you in the morning.'? What does sighed mean in the sentence?

- A: The astronaut used sign language to say okay.
- B: The astronaut let out a loud breath because he was tired and wanted to sleep.
- C: The astronaut signed a piece of paper.
- D: The astronaut walked away.

Question: Choose the sentence that used sighed correctly.

- A: Jason sighed the paper and gave it back to the teacher.
- B: Sam sighed to her friend who was deaf.
- C: Lindsay sighed when her mom yelled at her to clean her room because Lindsay hated cleaning her room.
- D: Tracy sighed as she yelled how excited she was about going to the fair.

Q: 2 WordPhrase: Collaborative **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The astronaut said "We would be on a collaborative team." What does collaborative mean?

- A: Two or more people working together
- B: Large
- C: Matching
- D: Friendly

Question: In what sentence is collaborative used correctly?

- A: George and Jaxson were arguing; they were a collaborative team.
- B: Kyleigh was collaborative during her math test.
- C: Payton came in last in the race because she was being collaborative.
- D: The science group worked collaboratively so they won the fair.

Q: 3 WordPhrase: Fatigued **WordPhraseTier:** 2

Question: The author mentioned that the astronaut "felt fatigued". What does fatigued mean?

- A: Happy
- B: Excited
- C: Very tired
- D: Disappointed

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "fatigued" correctly?

- A: Tony went to bed early and felt rested, so he was finally fatigued.
- B: Carson was fatigued because he hadn't slept well in three days.
- C: Mike was fatigued because he finally got to see his mom after five years.
- D: Arielle was so excited that she was going to the baseball game that her dad said she was fatigued.

Q: 4 WordPhrase: Astronaut **WordPhraseTier:** 3

Question: The title of the article is "The Astronaut's Diary". What does astronaut mean?

- A: The ship that goes into space.
- B: A planet.
- C: A person who goes to space.
- D: A piece of rock that flies through space.

Question: Which one of the sentences below uses the word "astronaut" correctly?

- A: Anthony always wanted to become an astronaut and go underwater.
- B: Carson always wanted to become an astronaut and go to space.
- C: Emily really hated the astronaut because it was so loud.
- D: Sarah was always afraid she was going to get hit by an astronaut flying from the sky.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: Write one to two paragraphs answering each question. Then respond to at least two of your peers on two different topics.?

1 - Team work

The astronaut discussed how he was working with a team of other astronauts. What types of chores do they need to do from reading the text? What chores do you think astronauts have to do that weren't mentioned?

2 - Space Station

The astronaut talked about being excited to get to the space station. Describe what you think the space station looks like. Use some of the examples that were given in the text.?

3 - If you were an astronaut

If you were an astronaut, what three things would you want to bring into space and why?

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: The astronaut said that he never realized how hard it would be. Write 3 paragraphs on a time or an experience you had that you didn't realize would be so hard until you had to do it.?

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